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British Campaign for the Defence of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia

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Honorary President: Lord Avebury; Honorary Treasurer: Tom Soper; Organising Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

8 April 1986

The Honorable Mario Soares,
President of Portugal,
Palacio de S Bento,
Lisbon,
Portugal

Dear Mr President,

This organisation has noted with pleasure that, in the statement you made at the time of your installation as President, you reiterated your intention to support independence and self-determination for East Timor, in accordance with the Portuguese Constitution. We drew attention to this statement in our recent newsletter, a copy of which I enclose.

One of TAPOL's activities is to monitor developments in Indonesia relating to East Timor. May we take the liberty, therefore, of drawing your attention to the fact that recent Indonesian press reports reveal some details of Indonesia's diplomatic offensive this year. The offensive is aimed primarily at winning support at this year's General Assembly for a resolution to "obliterate" East Timor from its agenda, once and for all. The offensive was discussed at special meetings of Indonesian ambassadors held in Europe and in New York, presided over by Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja. "Obliterate" was the word used by Dr Mochtar in his statements to the press after these meetings.

It is our intention, in writing to you, to draw your attention to these plans. From what we have read, a further consultation between your government and the Indonesian government is likely to be held in June or July this year. We believe this could be used by Indonesia to lead the consultations to a stalemate, paving the way for the resolution planned at the General Assembly later this year.

TAPOL believes such a development would be a gross betrayal by the international community of its commitment to the principle of self-determination, and a serious blow for the people of East Timor who have suffered such grievous sufferings since their country was invaded by Indonesia in 1975. We look to your Government in the hope it will do everything possible to prevent Indonesia's plans from coming to fruition.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo